

| Grade Level | Tasks of Catechesis | Standards | Benchmarks |
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| 8 | <p><u>I. PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH</u> <i>Helping children to know, understand, and integrate Catholic beliefs.</i> (CCC #26-1065; GDC #84, 85-87; NDC #20, 25, 41-43)</p> | A. Know, love and be in relationship with Jesus Christ. | |
| 8 | <p><u>I. PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH</u></p> | B. Explore Scripture as hearers and doers of the Word | |
| 8 | <p><u>I. PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH</u></p> | C. Understand the major teachings of Catholicism. | <p>1. Name the marks of the Church. 2. Explain the communion of saints.</p> |
| 8 | <p><u>I. PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH</u></p> | D. Know the Church's teaching on the dignity of the human person in its social doctrine, including respect-life teaching. | <p>1. Give examples of how we show respect for all life. 2. Give examples of Catholic Social Teachings and how they relate to our life.</p> |
| 8 | <p><u>I. PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH</u></p> | E. Learn the richness of the Church's tradition and understand Church history. | <p>1. Recognize the value of different cultural expressions of Catholicism. 2. Recognize some significant development in Church history after the time of Jesus (e.g. Vatican II). 3. Name three holy men or women who live now and follow the teachings of Jesus. 4. Recognize the importance of ecumenical dialogue in furthering Christian unity.</p> |

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| 8 | <u>I. PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAITH</u> | F. Learn the meaning and practical relevance of current church teachings as presented by the pope, diocesan bishop, Vatican congregations, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the process of canonization. 2. Identify that the unique origin of the Roman Catholic Church is rooted in Jesus commissioning of Peter to be the head of the apostles and unifier of the Church. 3. Describe the role of the magisterium of the Church (teaching authority). 4. Describe the hierarchical structure of the Catholic Church; the relationship of the local pastor to the bishop, to the USCCB, and to Rome. 5. Give examples of how the bishop uses his public role to promote the common good and Catholic Social Teachings. 6. Explain the role of infallibility. 7. Explain the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience and how they are lived in a ‘vowed religious life.’ |
| 8 | <u>II. LITURGICAL EDUCATION</u> <i>Helping children to know how the church worships through full, active, and conscious participation in liturgy.</i> (CCC #106-1690; GDC #84, 85, 87; NDC #20, 22-38) | A. Understand, live, and bear witness to the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus, celebrated and communicated through the sacramental life of the Church. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the process of canonization. 2. Give examples of how we witness to Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. 3. Understand the Christian meaning of death and afterlife and explain the funeral rituals. |
| 8 | <u>II. LITURGICAL EDUCATION</u> | B. Understand church doctrine on the Eucharist and other sacraments. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reflect on the experience of Eucharist (Mass); what you see/hear/images/small/what touched you. 2. Name the gifts of the Holy Spirit. |
| 8 | <u>II. LITURGICAL EDUCATION</u> | C. Acquire the spirituality, skills, and habits of full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgy. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe how the Christian mystery is celebrated over the cycle of time: the Liturgical year, symbols associated with each season, and the liturgical color for Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time. |

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| 8 | <u>II. LITURGICAL EDUCATION</u> | D. Value the dignity and responsibility of Christian baptism. | 1. Exhibit ways to be evangelizers. |
| 8 | <u>II. LITURGICAL EDUCATION</u> | E. Understand the roles of the laity and ordained in liturgical celebrations. | 1. Help plan, implement, participate and/or lead several different prayer experiences. 2. Actively participate in various liturgical celebrations (e.g. praying with the community (assembly), singing, choir, gift bearers, readers, greeters, etc.) |
| 8 | <u>II. LITURGICAL EDUCATION</u> | F. Understand and participate in the Church's daily prayer, Liturgy of the Hours, and learn to pray the Psalms. | 1. Pray the canticles: Zechariah, Mary, and Simeon (morning, evening, bedtime.) 2. Pray the Liturgy of the Hours during main liturgical seasons and feasts. 3. Lead a younger grade in Liturgy of the Hours. |
| 8 | <u>III. MORAL FORMATION</u> <i>Helping children to recognize, understand, and express that each person is called as a disciple of Jesus to love, forgive, and serve others.</i> (CCC #1691-2557-1065; GDC #84, 85, 87; NDC #20, 41-45) | A. Understand the Great Commandment of Jesus. | 1. Explain how the 'Great Commandment' guides us in moral decision making. 2. Explain the relationship between the 'Great Commandment' and free will. |
| 8 | <u>III. MORAL FORMATION</u> | B. Understand the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and moral teachings of the Church and live according to them. | 1. Apply the Ten Commandments, Catholic Social Teachings, Beatitudes, and Works of Mercy to daily living. 2. Show respect for the property of others and make restitution for damage or theft of another's property. 3. Understand that living a moral life is a life long process of conversion. 4. Understand and act on moral norms concerning speech (e.g. tell the truth, avoid bad language). |

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| 8 | <u>III. MORAL FORMATION</u> | C. Understand the dignity, destiny, freedom, and responsibility of each person. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exhibit the use of critical reflection process in daily life. 2. Apply principles of Catholic moral teaching to daily living. 3. Show respect for property of others and make restitution for damage or theft of other's property. 4. Choose to respect the human body as a Temple of the Holy Spirit (virtue of purity). |
| 8 | <u>III. MORAL FORMATION</u> | D. Understand the meaning and nature of sin and the power of God's grace to overcome it. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand what with the grace of God, one overcomes sin. |
| 8 | <u>III. MORAL FORMATION</u> | E. Learn how to acquire and follow a well-formed conscience. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt the use of scripture, doctrine, and church teachings in making moral decisions. 2. Show continuing desires to live a moral life. 3. Distinguish between object, intention, and circumstances as sources of the morality of human acts. 4. Acknowledge that people should have a well-formed conscience and live according to it. |
| 8 | <u>III. MORAL FORMATION</u> | F. Promote the Gospel of Life so that respecting life from conception until natural death is honored in personal behavior, public policy, and in expressed values and attitudes of our society. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate how moral virtues strengthen our lives. 2. Relate sources of violence, oppression, and injustice and how they impact today's society. 3. Give examples of ways to influence public policy. 4. Show ways to respect life at all stages. |
| 8 | <u>III. MORAL FORMATION</u> | G. Live a lifestyle reflecting scriptural values. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek ways to be disciples of Christ. 2. Display respect for others, in all areas, including sexuality. 3. Distinguish charity from justice. |

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| 8 | <p><u>IV. TEACHING TO PRAY</u> <i>Helping children to learn to pray the way Jesus did: adoration, praise, thanksgiving, filial confidence, supplication, and awe.</i> (CCC #2588-2865; GDC #84, 85, 87; NDC #20, 29, 33, 34, 38)</p> | <p>A. Become familiar with the diverse forms and expressions of Christian prayer, with special attention to the Our Father, the prayer which Jesus taught his disciples and which is the model for all Christian prayer.</p> | <p>1. Recite the following prayers; Apostles' Creed, Prayer for the Dead (Eternal Rest...), Acts of Faith, Hope, and Charity, Stations of the Cross.</p> |
| 8 | <p><u>IV. TEACHING TO PRAY</u></p> | <p>B. Experience and appreciate the richness of the Catholic tradition of mysticism and contemplation.</p> | <p>1. Engage in as much as 15 minutes a time in Guided Meditation. 2. Experience and practice other forms of meditation (e.g. Lectio Divina, Mantras).</p> |
| 8 | <p><u>IV. TEACHING TO PRAY</u></p> | <p>C. Develop a regular pattern of personal prayer and spiritual reflection, recognizing vocal prayer, meditation, and contemplative prayer as basic and fruitful practices in the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ.</p> | <p>1. Experience the freedom to approach God with their deepest needs, concerns, and struggles.</p> |
| 8 | <p><u>IV. TEACHING TO PRAY</u></p> | <p>D. Engage in shared prayer with others, especially family prayer, as well as at parish meetings and in small communities of faith.</p> | <p>1. Lead others in prayers of petition and intercession. 2. Reflect their awareness of the complexity of world situations through different prayer forms. 3. Recognize, appreciate, and understand a variety of ways God answers prayers.</p> |

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| 8 | <u>IV. TEACHING TO PRAY</u> | E. Recognize and encourage practices of popular piety and devotion that help believers express and strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ. | 1. Foster intergenerational prayer with others. 2. Experience Eucharistic Adoration, Stations of the Cross, and the Rosary. |
| 8 | <u>V. EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITY LIFE</u> <i>Children experience community life as an apprenticeship of faith which cultivates values, relationships, and ecumenical dialogue.</i> (CCC #811; GDC #84, 86, 87; NDC #20, 29, 36, 41) | A. Foster spiritual growth in community. | 1. Name the gifts of the Holy Spirit and give examples of how they help form us in community. |
| 8 | <u>V. EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITY LIFE</u> | B. Cultivate human values and Christian virtues that foster growth in interpersonal relationships and in civic responsibility. | 1. Display compassion for all. 2. Identify ways to know and do God's will. 3. Apply the cardinal and theological virtues and give examples of how they are guides for our daily living. 4. Identify and interpret our duty to work with religious and civic leaders to build a world based on justice and the common good for all. |
| 8 | <u>V. EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITY LIFE</u> | C. Nurture marriage and family life. | 1. Exhibit increased responsibilities within the family unit. 2. Practice and apply conflict resolution strategies to their relationships. 3. Understand the value of sexuality and chastity. 4. Understand that every human life, from conception until natural death, is sacred. |

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| 8 | <u>V. EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITY LIFE</u> | D. Share actively in the life and work of the parish, and foster the potential of small communities to deepen the faith relationships of members, to strengthen the bonds of communion with the parish, and to serve the Church's mission in society. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate in the ministries of the parish. 2. Describe the relationship between charity and justice. 3. Advocate for justice. |
| 8 | <u>V. EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITY LIFE</u> | E. Understand the Church's teaching on the nature and mission of the Church, including an understanding of the Church's authority and structures and of the rights and responsibilities of the Christian faithful. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summarize the four marks of the Church. 2. Understand the mission of the Church as herald, prophet, servant, and community. 3. Apply the baptismal call to holiness (priest, prophet, and king) to all areas of their life. 4. Identify roles and responsibilities of the laity and ordained in carrying out the mission of the Church. |
| 8 | <u>V. EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITY LIFE</u> | F. Support the ecumenical movement and promote the unit of God's people as an important dimension of fidelity to the Gospel. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distinguish between uniquely Catholic beliefs and practices and those shared by other Christian religions. 2. Dialogue about faith with persons of other religious traditions. |

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| 8 | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>VI.</u> <u>MISSIONARY INITIATION</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Assist children to become disciples of Christ, present in society, and able to witness their faith.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(CCC #1912-2046; GDC #84, 87; NDC #17-20, 43, 51)</p> | A. Cultivate an evangelizing spirit among all the faithful. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate in a retreat or evening of reflection. 2. Explain the nature and purpose of evangelization. 3. Demonstrate how their good works can be a means to evangelize. 4. Invite others to learn more about or participate in the parish community. |
| 8 | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>VI.</u> <u>MISSIONARY INITIATION</u></p> | B. Respond to God's call whether as a lay person, ordained, or vowed religious. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give examples of saints, heroes, and holy people. 2. Describe the mission of the laity in the world. 3. Discuss the contributions of various religious orders in the United States. 4. Discuss ways the vocations of single life, married, vowed religious, and ordained give service to others. 5. Apply the virtues to daily life. 6. Identify founders of major religious communities and how their followers serve the Church today (e.g. Dominicans, Franciscans, Notre Dame and St. Joseph Sisters). |
| 8 | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>VI.</u> <u>MISSIONARY INITIATION</u></p> | C. Encourage, motivate, and equip the faithful to speak to others about scripture, tradition, and teachings of the church. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate and recall personal faith sharing. |
| 8 | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>VI.</u> <u>MISSIONARY INITIATION</u></p> | D. Explore and promote the applications of the Church's moral and social teachings. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply the Gospel message regarding justice and peace to circumstances in life. 2. Identify forces of violence, oppression, and injustice present in today's society. 3. Evaluate the issues of homelessness, hunger, poverty, and illiteracy found in the larger community in light of the Church's social teachings. |

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| 8 | <u>VI.</u> <u>MISSIONARY</u> <u>INITIATION</u> | E. Understand the importance of serving those in need, promoting the common good, and working for the transformation of society through personal and social action. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify opportunities to perform the Works of Mercy. 2. Evaluate what participation in service teaches oneself. 3. Assume responsibility for changes in behavior and/or attitude (e.g. recycle, clean up after self). 4. Evaluate wants and needs in light of the common good. |
| 8 | <u>VI.</u> <u>MISSIONARY</u> <u>INITIATION</u> | F. Appreciate the value of inter-religious dialogue and contacts. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine key areas where the Catholic Church and other Christian denominations are similar and different. 2. Demonstrate respect for persons of other religions. |